

The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1887.

Would it not be a good idea to obtain permission to change the name of our township, to one more descriptive and appropriate? We suggest that of Shantytown, as very accurately expressing what the center of our town promises soon to become. To be sure, to complete the picture the importation of a few goats, chickens, and pigs would be needed, but this could be easily arranged for. We have protested before against the short-sighted, selfish policy which is rapidly rendering the Center not unlike the old squatter region of the upper end of Manhattan Island. The blind disregard for the general good, and the lack of ordinary business capacity of some large land holders of Bloomfield Township in times gone by has been the damnation of progress and improvement in Bloomfield.

As an example of what the contrary policy is capable of accomplishing, we need only point to the marvelous development of that section of the township known as Glen Ridge. There it was recognized that the general community had some rights which the individual property holder was bound to respect; and no man could buy a lot without a substantial guarantee that he would not build upon it a shanty, which would not depreciate the value of every bit of property within sight of it. And while no present advantage could induce the property holder to sacrifice future values, there was no holding off by one man, so that he might eventually reap the fruit of his neighbor's enterprise, without letting go a foot of his own land to assist in the improvement. What is the result? Beauty and prosperity.

If the example furnished in the erection of the Heckel building and the hotel were general, it would be hard to estimate the value that would be added to Bloomfield property generally, to say nothing of the pleasure of its inhabitants.

To show that we base our opinion on something beside theory, it may be stated that a sale of a piece of property in the Center at a good price had been arranged, when the prospective buyer learned that another "shed" was about to be erected alongside of it, and declined to proceed further. We admire his good sense. It may be some slight satisfaction to the disgusted and outraged public, that the results of case-hardened selfishness, thick-headed stupidity, and an utter disregard of the dictates of common sense and common decency, like curses come home to roost.

The time is rapidly approaching when the democratic party of Bloomfield, will commit their kari by securing the appointment of some tenth rate man to the position of postmaster to succeed the indisputably competent, well-liked and particularly satisfactory present incumbent. There is a rumor that some of the more respectable and sensible members of the party have held the coat-tails of the machine to prevent catastrophe. Unfortunately respectability and sense have not seemed to count for much in the councils of the local democracy, this long time. Therefore it can be predicted with moderate certainty that the exhibition will take place as advertised. Republicans are particularly requested to attend, front seats having been reserved for their use. Hooray for reform!

The Value of Books.

We are glad to note an increased interest in books. The establishment of free public libraries marks a change in public sentiment. In New York City the residue of Samuel J. Tilden's estate, amounting to about \$4,000,000 is to be devoted to this object. The young men of this village cannot do better than devote their energies to the founding of a library of large proportions and careful selection.

We call a few expressions from noted writers as to the value of books: William Ellery Channing: "God be thanked for books! They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levelers. They give to all who will faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence, of the best and the greatest of the race. No matter how poor I am; no matter though the prosperity of my own time will not enter my obscure dwelling, if the sacred writers will enter and take my abode under my roof,—if Milton will cross my threshold to sing to me of Paradise; and Shakespeares to open to me the worlds of imagination and the workings of the human heart; and Franklin to enrich me with his practical wisdom,—I shall not pine for intellectual companionship, and I may become a cultivated man, though excluded from what is called the best society in the place where I live."

Jeremy Collier: Books are a guide

in youth, and an entertainment for age. They support us under solitude, and keep us from being a burden to ourselves. They help us to forget the crossness of men and things, compose our cares and our passions, and lay our disappointments asleep. When we are weary of the living we may repair to the dead, who have nothing of peevishness, pride or design in their conversation.

John Milton: Many a man lives, a burden to the earth; but a good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose for a life beyond life.

Thomas Carlyle: O thou who art able to write a book, which once in two centuries or oftener there is a man gifted to do, envy not him whom they name city-builder, and inexpressibly pity him whom they name conqueror or city-burner. Thou, too, art a conqueror and victor; but of the true sort, namely, over the Devil.

A. Bronson Alcott: Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select the more enjoyable; and like these are approached with diffidence, not sought too familiarly nor too often, having the precedence only when friends tire. The most mannerly of companions, accessible at all times, in all moods, they frankly declare the authors mind without giving offence.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wisest men that could be picked out of all civil countries, in a thousand years, have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom.

Theodore Parker: A great book that comes from a great thinker;—it is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth, with beauty too.

Francis Benbow: "I love my books as drinkers love their wine; The more I drink, the more they seem divine; With joy elate my soul in love runs o'er, And each fresh draught is sweeter than before! Books bring me friends where'er on earth I be— Solace of solitude, bonds of society I love my books! they are companions dear, Sterling worth, in friendship most sincere Here talk I with the wise of ages gone, And with the nobly gifted in our own mind, Love, joy, grief, laughter in my books I find."

Henry Ward Beecher: Books are the windows through which the soul looks out. Charles Kingsley: Except a living man there is nothing more wonderful than a book! a message to us from the dead,—from human souls whom we never saw, who lived perhaps thousands of miles away; and yet these, on those little sheets of paper, speak to us, amuse us, vivify us, teach us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers. We ought to reverence books, to look at them as useful and mighty things. If they are good and true, . . . they are the message of Christ, the maker of all things, the teacher of all truth.

LITERARY NOTES.

—Miss A. Mary F. Robinson, writing from London to "The Literary World," of Boston, says that Mr. Hardy has in mind "a tragical little story to be written when 'The Woodlanders' is finished. The legend is an old one in his family, and tells how a wilful, passionate girl, one day in the last century, ran away against her parents' will to see a malefactor hanged in chains in that old Roman amphitheatre of Dorchester which made so fine a setting to the 'Mayor of Castorbridge.' The girl came home, sobered, pious, unrecognizable—henceforth a disciplined and religious woman."

—A new novel from the pen of "The Duchess" (Mrs. Margaret Argles-Hungerford) is promised, which, it is said, will bear a close resemblance to the author's "Phyllis." This latter work, says a correspondent of the Chicago "Times," "it will be remembered," was written by "The Duchess" when, as a young wife, she was, by the imprisonment of her first husband for forgery, thrown upon her own resources. Her second work, "Molly Bawn," has proved to be her most successful novel, nearly 50,000 copies having been sold by her authorized American publishers, The J. B. Lippincott Co., alone. In addition to this sale, thousands of copies have been sold of the book in the six or seven cheap and unauthorized reprints put out in America. "The Duchess is not, as has been frequently stated, an elderly woman. She has not yet reached her 36th year, and was married to her present husband, Mr. Hungerford, three years ago."

—Houghton, Mifflin & Co. call special attention to their new edition of "The Fair God," by Lew Wallace, which was first published in 1873 and went through twenty-nine editions. It deals with the "Conquest of Mexico," in the beginning of the sixteenth century and describes the scenery, manners, customs, and inhabitants of Mexico, when at the height of its civilization, in the unrivaled style of the author of "Ben Hur." We advise our readers to buy it if they do not already possess it, even before waiting to hear further of the treat in store for them. This house will also publish at once Brooks Adams' work entitled "The Emancipation of Massachusetts." Mr.

Adams claims that his study of Massachusetts history has convinced him that certain important aims and objects of the early settlers of that State have been hitherto ignored or very inadequately recognized. In this book he attempts to point out and illustrate these, and to show the steps and agencies by which Massachusetts was emancipated from ecclesiastical and political narrowness, bigotry, and intolerance, which he claims dominated the colony down to the Revolution. His book is vigorously written and challenges careful study.

—Cupples, Upham & Co. have just ready "Rambles in Old Boston, New England," by Rev. Edward G. Porter, illustrated by George R. Tolman, in a handsome quarto volume of 439 pages, with index, maps and numerous illustrations.

—A volume of reminiscences of Salem life by Mrs. Nathaniel Silsbee (formerly a resident of Salem, but living in Boston) is to be shortly published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The book is to be called "A Half Century in Salem."

—The tendency has been during the last two or three years to bring important studies before scholars at an earlier age than before. A valuable book written with view is "A Primer of Botany," by Mrs. A. A. Knight, to be ready shortly.

—The "The Beer of the Bible" will shortly be issued in London. The author, a consulting brewer, who has carefully studied the Egyptian leavens, discovers the ancient Hebrew beer to be only a sort of eatable fermented paste.

—The Century's reprint of its war articles, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, will be ready early in the Spring. Many valuable papers hitherto unpublished will be added to those that have already appeared.

—"Letters from Heaven" is just ready in England. If its success is as great as that of the correspondence from heaven's antipodes, there need be no fear for it. It is translated from the fourth German edition.

—The editor of the Crocker Papers, L. J. Jennings, has been collecting material for a political biography of Gladstone. The work will give the public career of the statesman in as brief a form as possible.

—Three hundred of the best sonnets, written during the last hundred years have been collected for a volume on Sonnets of this Century, by Wm. Sharp. There is an introductory essay on the sonnet, with ample biographical and bibliographical notes.

—Messrs. Turner & Co. have in the press "The Revolution in Tennessee," by Mark Rutledge, the author of "Mark Rutledge's Autobiography" and of "Mark Rutledge's deliverance."

—Dr. William Perry, of Exeter, N. H., grandfather of Miss Sarah Orne Jewett and the original of her "Country Doctor," died this week. His ninety-eighth birthday was celebrated on December 20th.

—Gen. Lew Wallace is engaged in writing a romance of Constantinople, and among the graphic pictures in the book will be a battle, the description of which promises to excel in picturesqueness and strength the famous chariot-race scene in "Ben Hur," which the author's reading has rendered familiar to so many.

—"Speeches and Diplomatic Papers," by James G. Blaine, will be published by the Henry Bill Publishing Co., of New York, who publish the author's "Twenty Years of Congress." It will cover a period of thirty years—1856-86. The volume will contain steel portraits of President Garfield and Mr. Blaine. It is edited by John L. Stevens, formerly Minister to Sweden.

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